

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SY-05
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P 030738Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6712

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 05493

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: U.S. CARRIERS CONCERN ABOUT
. SECURITY AT NARITA AIRPORT

REF: TOKYO 4941

SUMMARY: U.S. AIRLINE REPS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN
RE SECURITY AT NARITA AIRPORT TO AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD.
AMBASSADOR PLANS TO CONVEY THIS CONCERN IN LOW KEY
MANNER TO VICEFORMIN DURING INFORMAL MEETING APRIL 7.
END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 31, LOCAL HEADS OF FOUR U.S. AIRLINES
SERVING JAPAN CALLED ON AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD TO
EXPRESS THEIR "DEEP CONCERN" RE SECURITY AT
NARITA AIRPORT.

2. PANAM LOCAL REP R. CLARK, ACTING AS GROUP
SPOKESMAN, STATED THAT RADICALS' MARCH 26 SEIZURE
AND DESTRUCTION OF NARITA CONTROL TOWER EQUIPMENT
CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTLY
UNABLE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY AT THE
FACILITY. PROBLEM WOULD BE COMPOUNDED ONCE THE
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AIRPORT OPENED TO THE PUBLIC AND THE SAFETY OF
U.S. CITIZEN PASSENGERS AND CREW, AS WELL AS
JAPANESE, COULD BE JEOPARDIZED. GROUP
SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT EMBASSY EXPRESS
"DEEP CONCERN" RE NARITA SECURITY TO THE GOJ
AND THAT THE EMBASSY KEEP THE U.S. CARRIERS
APPRISED OF SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY

UNFOLD.

3. AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED THAT THE SECURITY OF U.S. AIRLINES AND PASSENGERS IS A MATTER OF LEGITIMATE INTEREST AND DEEP CONCERN TO THE EMBASSY AND USG. HE NOTED THAT THE WHOLE SECURITY SITUATION AT NARITA IS NOW UNDER REVIEW BY THE GOJ AND THAT A HASTY DECISION ABOUT OPENING WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY. AMBASSADOR PROMISED AIRLINE REPS THAT OUR CONCERNS ABOUT SECURITY WILL BE RELAYED TO THE GOJ "AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND AN APPROPRIATE TIME NOT FAR IN THE FUTURE."

4. FYI: AMBASSADOR PLANS TO CONVEY CONCERN ABOUT NARITA SECURITY IN LOW-KEY MANNER WITH VICEFORMIN ARITA DURING INFORMAL MEETING APRIL 7. MANSFIELD

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